

Archaeological Society of North Carolina NEWSLETTER

Number 93

Chapel Hill

September, 1989

FROM THE EDITOR

While going through some early records of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina, housed at the Research Laboratories of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill, I "re-discovered" the Society's first journal--the *Bulletin*--which was published twice a year from 1934 through 1937. After reading several very interesting articles from the eight issues that were published, I thought that the ASNC membership also might enjoy reading some commentaries from the Society's early years. Surprising, many of the issues that concern us today, such as Society finances, a collections survey, and the looting of archaeological sites, also were major concerns in the mid-1930s. In the next several *Newsletters*, we will reprint excerpts from the *Bulletin* and early issues of the *Newsletter* in our "From the ASNC Files" section.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of the Newsletter. We will continue to try and provide a variety of interesting articles as well as timely news. If you would like to have something included in the next *Newsletter*, please mail before Mar. 1, 1990, to Steve Davis, ASNC Editor, 108 Alumni Bldg., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

The next issue of *Southern Indian Studies* will go to the printer shortly. Unlike the last several issues, it will contain three to four separate articles on North Carolina archaeology. You will receive this issue only if you have paid your dues for 1989. If you have not paid, please mail your check today!

FALL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 1989

The Fall Meeting of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina will be held on Saturday, October 7, 1989 on the Lenoir Community College campus in Kinston, NC. Activities will include slide lectures on the archaeology of North Carolina, artifact displays and exhibits on North Carolina Indians, and demonstrations of Indian crafts and weapons. Please bring any artifacts that you would like to display or have identified. Display tables will be provided. We expect to have a very informative and enjoyable program so be sure and mark your calendar now!

Preliminary Program Saturday, October 7, 1989

The registration and information desk will open at 9:15 AM in the main foyer of the Learning Resources Center (Bldg. 005) (see map at end of newsletter).

9:15 AM Registration (Coffee and Doughnuts)

10:00 AM Business Meeting

10:30 PM Alan May (Schiele Museum) "Tracing De Soto's Route in North Carolina"

11:00 AM David Phelps (East Carolina University) "Prehistoric Tuscarora Burial Patterns"

11:30 AM David Weaver (Wake Forest University) "Precolumbian Syphyllus in North Carolina?"

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Artifact Exhibits and Demonstrations

3:00 PM Meeting Adjourns

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ASNC officers for 1990 will be elected at the Fall Meeting. Nominees are: President - Bill Moxley; Vice-President - Richard Terrell; At-Large Members (two will be elected) - Cindy Autry, Bill Terrell. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

A TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA

by
Mrs. Jane Pridgen

[Editor's Note: Mrs. Pridgen is the daughter of past ASNC president Doug Woodworth]

With the recent discovery of several Indian dugout canoes in Phelps Lake, and ongoing work, mainly under

the direction of Dr. David Phelps, of East Carolina University, Coastal Plains archaeology took a small but significant step forward on Wednesday, February 22, 1988, with a symposium, "In Search of a Lost Heritage," in Greenville. The symposium was sponsored by the Institute of Historical and Cultural Research and the College of Arts and Sciences of East Carolina University. Among the noted participants were two East Carolina professors, Dr. David Phelps, Professor of Anthropology, and Dr. Henry Ferrell, Professor of History.

Also attending was the recently elected president of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina, Mr. Bill Moxley, of Kinston. Bill, who is interested and active in archaeology, is a chemical engineer employed by the DuPont Company and a student at East Carolina, pursuing a degree in Anthropology, doing most of his studies during evening classes.

In a casual interview shortly after his election, Bill shared some of his feelings about the Society, archaeology in general, and his own interest which dates back to his boyhood in Raleigh.

When asked how his interest in archaeology started, Bill said that when a pre-teen, a spring rain washed several large pieces of Indian pottery out of a small stream bed near his home. Picking them up triggered a life-long interest in collecting Indian artifacts. His collection now numbers over a thousand arrowheads, spear points, tools and other items, in addition to hundreds of pottery sherds. Each item is identified by a number which tells where it was found. This is important because it retains some of the archaeological significance of the collection.

Q. How did you get interested in the ASNC?

A. I attended a meeting several years ago, enjoyed it, and have continued going on a regular basis.

Q. What is the history of the Society?

A. The Archaeological Society of North Carolina is the oldest of several organizations in the state. It was started about fifty years ago, in 1933. The initial idea was that the Society should, with help from the collectors, make a systematic archaeological survey of the state. The Society was formed for that purpose.

Q. What is the makeup of the membership?

A. The membership includes both professionals and non-professionals interested in archaeology. It is predominantly non-professional. They come from all over the state, but are concentrated in numbers in the central part of the state. This is probably because of population density and the fact that both the Office of State Archaeology at Raleigh and the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill are more easily available. Membership is weakest in the eastern part of the state. Many of our members are not collectors but are interested in archaeology *per se*. Men and women of all ages are members and many are very active. We

expect a new membership committee to be effective in reaching interested people.

Q. What are the activities of the ASNC?

A. We have some opportunities for non-professionals to take part in actual digs, usually on a weekend basis, but more on-going when there is a project in their area.

A lot of people are just interested in a textbook sense; they like to read about it, talk about it, and hear informed talks on the subject. This is the primary function of the bi-annual meeting, newsletters, and *Southern Indian Studies*, the yearly periodical.

Q. What are the purposes and achievements of the Society?

A. What we try to encourage, on the part of collectors, is to do it in a responsible manner. This includes documenting their artifacts, reporting sites to the professional community, limiting their activity to surface collecting, and having the permission of the land owners. There was a time when the professionals were so concerned about "pot hunters" (collectors who dig into sites) that there was a fair amount of tension. That has been eased a lot in the last few years, and I think both groups have some understanding of each other. I think both the non-professionals and professionals have seen cases where cooperation has been beneficial. In many cases the collectors know the site locations better than the professionals, and are probably in a better position to know when a site is endangered.

Q. In what direction do you see the ASNC going at this point?

A. I think this is the major question facing the Society. In the last several years we have made considerable progress in increasing membership. Improving relations between collectors and professionals, and improving our relationship with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, are ongoing.

Some states have very active groups of non-professionals that help the professionals with both lab and field work on an ongoing basis. I think we're a long way from reaching that.

Q. How do you perceive your role as president of the Society?

A. I think it is primarily one of continuing the efforts that were started by the previous officers in developing a closer relationship with other groups.

The second area I'm interested in specifically is trying to get a better tie-in with Friends of North Carolina Archaeology, a group formed by the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources primarily to provide financial support to their activities.

Another group I would like to see more active, but I'm not sure how to approach it, is a group limited to professional archaeologists in the state called the North Carolina Archaeological Council. Progress was made last

spring (1988) when, for the first time, the NCAC agreed to a meeting on the same day and in the same place as the Archaeological Society. We had a much larger participation by the professionals than normal. [Editor's note: The Spring, 1989, ASNC meeting in Chapel Hill also was held jointly with the N. C. Archaeological Council].

Q. How do you propose to help encourage public concern and cooperation in the preservation of North Carolina's archaeological resources?

A. I think the most useful approach we can take is to get people to contact their individual legislators to obtain their support in this area. I would point out that the sense of the past, of what has preceded us, is important to any individual in order to identify who they are and where they are headed in the future.

The second point I would make is that North Carolina has the largest Native American population of any state in the eastern United States. They are an important political block, sensitivity to their history is important, and we should deal with it on that basis.

ASNC SATURDAY AT HILLSBOROUGH EXCAVATIONS

On Saturday, June 10th, over 60 Society members and guests from the Friends of North Carolina Archaeology assisted UNC archaeologists with their excavations at Hillsborough, NC. Their efforts were greatly appreciated and made a substantial contribution to the project's success.

These excavations were conducted at a newly discovered village site located next to the Fredricks site (early 18th-century "Occaneechi Town"). This site, dating from about 1650 to 1670, represents a palisaded settlement of the Shakori, or Shoccoree, tribe and may be the town of "Shakor" which was visited by the explorer John Lederer in 1670. Society members helped reveal portions of two overlapping palisade (e.g., fence or defensive stockade) lines as well as evidence of houses and associated pit features located just inside the palisade.

Incidentally, on July 3rd, several Society members returned to the site to participate in an open house sponsored by UNC and the Eno River Association as part of the annual Festival for the Eno celebration. This open house had an overall attendance of about 600-700 persons, showing that there is indeed great public interest in North Carolina archaeology. We hope to encourage many of those who attended to join our Society.

TRADITIONAL POTTERY STUDY

An archaeological survey of traditional pottery manufacturing sites in Buncombe County was recently completed by Linda Carnes, a UNC doctoral candidate,

and a team of volunteers. The twenty-week study was funded through a Certified Local Government grant co-sponsored by the Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, and the N. C. Division of Archives and History. Research was conducted on 32 folk potters who were active from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s. Ten kiln sites were located and assessed. Eight of these--the Bachelder, Stone/Penland, Trull, Rutherford, Cheek, McClure/Yoder, and two Donkel sites--were subsequently mapped, surface collected, and test excavated. Buried kiln foundations were discovered at three of these sites and over 11,000 artifacts (including potsherds, kiln wasters, and architectural debris) were recovered.

This study revealed that two different types of alkaline-glazed stonewares were manufactured. One type, employing crushed glass or crushed iron ore within the glaze to produce various colors and textures, is known to have originated in the Catawba Valley region of North Carolina. This finding, along with the presence of a specialized decorative techniques, strongly suggests that there was considerable interaction between potters of the two regions. It also was discovered that the origin of stoneware production in Buncombe County, which occurred in the mid-1800s, was a direct result of potters migrating into the region from South Carolina.

TOWN CREEK PRINTS ON SALE

In 1985, ASNC commissioned N.C. Realist Artist (and ASNC Member) Tom Stine to paint an original watercolor of Town Creek Indian Mound (shown below). Five hundred numbered prints were made for sale to raise money for an artifact collections survey. The ASNC Board of Directors has decided to reduce the price from \$25.00 to \$7.00 (postage paid) in order to make them more affordable to the membership. The print is 9" x 13", suitable for framing, and would make an excellent Christmas gift for anyone interested in North Carolina archaeology.



Corner-Notched type is somewhat later temporally. It is

T-SHIRTS

ASNC T-shirts are now available! As mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, the design on these shirts incorporates an outline map of North Carolina with a Clovis point and Woodland pot superimposed. They are available in two colors (medium blue with a silver design and gray with a black design) and four sizes (Small, Medium, Large, X-Large). They can be purchased for \$6.00 each (plus \$1.00 postage and handling) from ASNC, c/o Research Laboratories of Anthropology, 108 Alumni Bldg., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

More than half of the 100 T-shirts printed have already been sold so order your shirt now. (PS. All color-size combinations except Gray-Large are still available).

FROM THE ASNC FILES

[from "News and Notes" in the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina*, Vol. II, no. 2, p. 28, 1935]

"A Young Archaeologist. The youngest active member of the Society is Joffre L. Coe of Greensboro. He has already made such a good record that we want to say a few things about him. All through his high school days in North Carolina and in Florida, he was seriously interested in archaeology. He read everything he could get his hands on and he went about his surveying and collecting in a scientific way. When our Society was formed he joined. He has continued in the paths of archaeology and has formed a personal or letter-writing acquaintance with the leading men in the field. Last year he attended Brevard College, where he was responsible for the founding of the Brevard College Archaeological Society and a museum. This summer he was selected by the University of Chicago Department of Archaeology to work with their field party at the Kincaid site near Brookport, Illinois. Now he is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina. He has a National Youth Administration scholarship, which means that he devotes about two hours a day to archaeological work. At present he is cataloging collections which have been given to the Society. We predict a good future for this young man in the field of American archaeology."

BOOK REVIEW

Dry Bones: Dakota Territory Reflected. By Dr John R. and Pauline S. Gregg. 8" x 11", 236 pp, 62 Tables, and 180 Figures. Cost \$25 (plus \$1.50 mailing). Order from University of South Dakota Press, Vermillion, SD 57069.

Reviewed by Howard A. MacCord, Sr.

This book is the result of a quarter-century of research on archeological skeletal remains, both from Pre- and Post-Contact sites. While the bones studied were almost entirely from the upper Missouri River area (hence the book's title), the data apply to human bones anywhere.

The authors are medically-trained specialists who were seeking evidence of skeletal changes due to disease, injury or stress, plus genetic and growth anomalies. The scope of their work is reflected in the chapter headings: 1. Introduction; 2. Accidents and Injuries (includes scalping, amputations, etc.); 3. Inflammations and Infections; 4. Tumors and Cysts; 5. Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders; 6. Arthritis and Osteoporosis; 7. Congenital and Developmental Disorders; 8. Obstetrical, Neo-natal, and Childhood Disorders; and 9. Dental Disorders.

The text is concise, yet adequate, and most bone conditions described are also shown photographically. For most archeologists, the numerous medical terms used will require (at least initially) recourse to a medical dictionary. However, the important biological and paleopathological information gained will greatly expand the archeologist's interpretation of his human skeletal finds. While studies of paleopathology, trauma and so on are usually considered the province of the physical anthropologist, today's field archeologist must have more than a cursory knowledge of those subjects. This book, used in the field in conjunction with a standard text, will alert the archeologist to evidence often overlooked. Also, with the growing trend toward non-removal of human remains, or their immediate re-burial, the field archeologist will often have to make his or her own, on-the-spot observations and assessments, without input from a specialist.

One of the uniquely important values of this book is the authors' frequent comparisons between archeologically-retrieved data and similar data derived from studies of extant Indians in the region, often descendants of the earlier people. Parallel with this are cultural interpretations made by the authors to account for some of the skeletal evidence, including the effects of various mortuary customs deduced or provided by 19th-century documents. In short, this is a well-rounded study of great value.

I expect to use this book often in my own researches. My chief regret is that it was not available many years ago. I know I could have made good use of such a guide and resource. I strongly recommend that archeologists obtain and use this compilation of information in their work. For such a well-illustrated, technical book, the price is reasonable, too.

BOOK NOTES

Powhatan's Mantle: Indians in the Colonial Southeast,

edited by Peter H. Wood, Gregory A. Waselkov, and M. Thomas Hatley, 1989 (\$50.00), 355 pp., University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0520. This volume contains 12 essays covering a wide range of topics about Southeastern Indians during the Colonial period, including: trails and trade routes, population migrations, demography, exchange and trade networks, Mississippian symbolism, and maps made by Indians.

The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal, by James H. Merrell, 1989 (\$32.50), 381 pp. Published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia by The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. This very well-written book provides a social historian's perspective of the Catawba Indians and their Piedmont Siouan neighbors from earliest period of European exploration until the mid-19th century, and is destined to become the authoritative statement on Catawba history. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in the early history of the Piedmont and the impact of European contact on the native population.

[The following three publications have been privately printed and are currently available from: Howard A. MacCord, Sr, 562 Rossmore Road, Richmond, VA 23225, Tel. 804-272-2128. All prices are postpaid.]

Prehistory of the Gathright Dam Area, Virginia, 1988 (\$4.50). 75 pp. Contains: Joe Benthall's survey report on the area (Archaic & Woodland sites); Dean Johnson's reports on the Huffman, Revercomb, and Perkins Point sites; and an Overview and Introduction (by H.A. MacCord, Sr.).

Falls Zone Archeology in Virginia, 1988 (\$6.00). Contains: Introduction to the Prehistoric Archeology of Virginia's Falls Zone, by H. A. MacCord, Sr., 12 pp.; The Stratigraphic Sequence at Patowomeke, Stafford County, Va., by C. P. Manson & H. A. MacCord, Sr., 28 pp.; The Kiser Site, Colonial Heights, Virginia, by William T Buchanan, Jr., 102 pp.

The Lewis Creek Mound Culture in Virginia, 1988 (\$5.50). Contains: The Lewis Creek Mound Culture in Virginia, by H. A. MacCord, Sr., 38 pp.; The John East Mound, Augusta County, Virginia, by Olier D. Valliere & H. A. MacCord, Sr, 31 pp.; The Cement Plant Site, Augusta County, Virginia, by Olier D. Valliere & H. A. MacCord, Sr, 23 pp.

1990 ASNC MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE NOW

Dues are payable at the Fall (October) meeting of each year and are past due after January 1. Membership categories are as follows:

Active Individual	\$10.00
Active Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Institution	\$25.00.

Membership includes subscription to the *Newsletter* and to *Southern Indian Studies*, as well as other activities of the Society. Please indicate on your check "1990 Dues" and membership category, and mail to The Archaeological Society of North Carolina, 108 Alumni Bldg., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

ASNC OFFICERS

Officers of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina are as follows: *President* - Bill Moxley, Kinston, NC; *Vice President* - Richard Terrell, Trinity, NC; *Secretary/Editor* - Steve Davis, Chapel Hill, NC; *Executive Secretary* - Vin Steponaitis - Chapel Hill, NC; *At-Large Members*: Alan May, Gastonia, NC, D. H. Baker, Kipling, NC (Terms expire 1989); Robert Graham, Burlington, NC, Nancy Brenner, Asheboro, NC (Terms expire 1990); Bill Jackson, Godwin, NC, Gary Henry, Asheville, NC (Terms expire 1991).

THE PALMER CORNER-NOTCHED TYPE

by

I. Randolph Daniel, Jr.

Background

The Palmer Corner-Notched point was defined by Joffre Coe in 1964 based on his excavations at the Hardaway site on the Yadkin River in Stanly county, North Carolina. This point type was found stratigraphically above the Hardaway complex of points at the Hardaway site.

Description

As originally defined by Coe (1964:67), the distinctive characteristics of the Palmer point type are its small triangular to slightly excurvate blade shape, small U-shaped corner notches, and a heavily ground and usually straight base. In addition, the blades of Palmer points are commonly serrated and exhibit opposite edge beveling (Fig. 1).

The corner notching produces barbed shoulders that generally result in a shoulder width that exceeds the basal width. However, blade resharpening on some specimens often results in a decreased blade width relative to basal width. This also tends to obscure the corner-notching.

Similar Types

A similar projectile point also recovered at the Hardaway site is the Kirk Corner-Notched type. However, excavations at Hardaway suggest that the Kirk Corner-Notched type is somewhat later temporally. It is

very similar morphologically to the Palmer type but is about twice as large and lacks basal grinding (Coe 1964:70). More recently, excavations at the Haw River sites in the Carolina Piedmont have documented a stratigraphic sequence of projectile points exhibiting attributes of both Palmer and Kirk Corner-notched points (e.g., a relatively large corner-notched point with basal grinding). This indicates that there was a gradual technological change that characterized these early corner-notched points and that the typological distinctions between Palmer and Kirk Corner-notched types "represent... idealized and dichotomous points within a directional sequence of change in a single design tradition" (Claggett and Cable 1982:381). Thus, it appears that an exclusive typological separation of these notched points primarily based upon size and basal grinding may be less warranted than the perspective of a typological continuum, with a stratigraphic trend toward increasing size correlated with a decreasing emphasis on basal grinding. In fact, the Hardaway data indicate that the Palmer and Kirk types were not mutually exclusive in their distributions, although Palmer points predominantly were found stratigraphically below Kirk points (Coe 1964:63, Table 7).

Dating and Distribution

Although no radiocarbon dates were obtained from Hardaway, Coe (1964:67) originally suggested an age of approximately 8,000 years for Palmer points. Palmer points remain undated; however, several radiocarbon dates have become available since Coe's excavations and dates for Kirk occupations in West Virginia (Broyles 1971) and the lower Little Tennessee River Valley (Chapman 1977, 1985) can be generalized to the Carolina Piedmont Palmer-Kirk corner notched forms. Thus, it appears that the Palmer point type is part of a pan-Southeastern, serrated, corner-notched form that has been variously referred to by the terms "Kirk Horizon" (Tuck 1974) or "Kirk Corner Notched Cluster" (Chapman 1977), and probably dates between 8,900-9,500 B.P.

References

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Fig. 1

Two Palmer Corner-Notched projectile points from the Hardaway site (actual size).

Archaeological Society of North Carolina NEWSLETTER

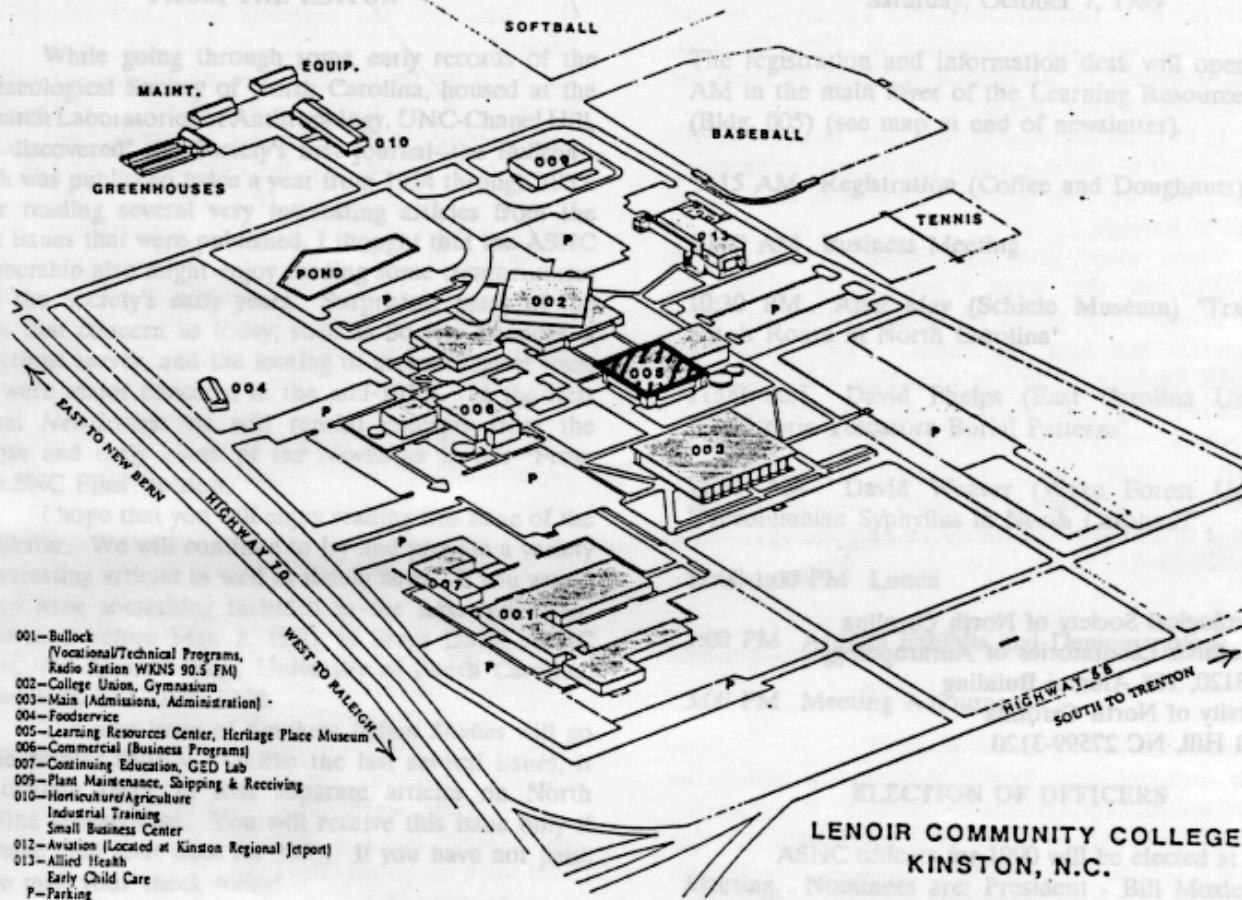
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Chapel Hill

September, 1989

FROM THE EDITOR

Preliminary Program
Saturday, October 7, 1989



LOCATION OF ASNC FALL MEETING

Lenoir Community College is located on U.S. 70 at the intersection of N.C. 58, just east of Kinston, NC. The meeting will be in the Learning Resources Center (Building 005) which is in the center of campus (cross-hatched on map). Ample parking is available near this building.